

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A manufacturing method of a steering column apparatus for a vehicle in which a steering column is supported and secured on the vehicle body through a bracket, said method comprising:

forming said bracket in advance, said bracket including a plurality of individual components connected by caulking via caulking projections and caulking recesses thereof,

wherein said individual components include:

a U-shaped main body component which integrally comprises two side portions each having an insertion hole and extended in parallel to an axis of said steering column, a connecting portion connecting said side portions, and flange portions to be attached to the vehicle body, the flange portions having said caulking recesses and extending, respectively, along sides of said steering column from said side portions, and

two separate components respectively having integrally first plate portions to be opposed to said

flange portions of the main body component and provided with insertion projections to be connected to said respective insertion holes and second plate portions to be opposed to said side portions of the main body component and provided with said caulking projections to be connected to said respective caulking recesses; wherein said forming includes connecting said insertion holes of said side portions and said insertion projections of said first plate portions ~~are respectively connected to~~ each other, and connecting said caulking recesses of said flange portions and said caulking projections of said second plate portions ~~are respectively connected to~~ each other[,]; and

~~wherein~~disposing shock absorbing plate members are respectively ~~disposed~~ between said side portions of the main body component and said two separate components, an end of each shock absorbing plate member being secured to the vehicle body and extended along said side portions of the main body component and then bent and folded back along said first plate portions of said separate components.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A manufacturing method of a steering column apparatus for a vehicle in which a column-side bracket attached to a steering column is brought into pressure contact with a body-side bracket attached to the body of the vehicle, ~~characterized in that~~ said method comprising:

~~said column-side bracket is comprised~~ providing a plurality of individual components of said column-side bracket including a main body component having a column supporting portion ~~directly in contact with and secured to a lower part of the steering column~~ and two side plate portions integrally formed with said column supporting portion, ~~and respectively in pressure contact with inner surfaces of two side plate portions of said body-side bracket,~~ the side plate portions of said main body component each being formed at an end thereof with a caulking recess, said individual components further including a fit plate component having ends each formed with a caulking projection to be engaged with a corresponding one of said caulking recesses for coupling said side plate portions of said main body component to each other; ~~and~~

assembling said individual components, said assembling including connecting said caulking recesses of said main body component and said caulking projections of said fit

plate component ~~are respectively connected~~ to each other by caulking; ~~and during assembly of said column-side bracket~~  
disposing said column-side bracket with said column  
supporting portion in direct contact with and secured to a  
lower part of the steering column, and with said two side  
plate portions respectively in pressure contact with inner  
surfaces of two side plate portions of said body-side  
bracket.

4. (Previously Presented) A steering column apparatus for a vehicle comprising a body-side bracket attached to the body of the vehicle for retaining a column-side bracket attached to the steering column by bringing the column-side bracket into pressure contact with two side plate portions of said body-side bracket extending in parallel to an axis of the steering column with the steering column passing therebetween, characterized in that:

said column-side bracket is comprised of individual components including a main body component having a column supporting portion directly in contact with and secured to a lower part of the steering column and two side plate portions integrally formed with said column supporting portion and respectively in pressure contact with inner surfaces of said side plate portions of said body-side

bracket, the side plate portions of said main body component each being formed at an end thereof with a caulking recess, said individual components further including a fit plate component having ends each formed with a caulking projection to be engaged with a corresponding one of said caulking recesses for coupling said side plate portions of said main body component to each other; and

said caulking recesses of said main body component and said caulking projections of said fit plate component are respectively connected to each other by caulking.

5. (Canceled)